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Boston, Nov. 26, 1861. —

Dear friend Webb;

First, a few words on business. Enclosed is a Bill of Exchange, payable on demand, for £18.2.2, equivalent (at $5. to the pound) to $90.54 — the amount, as I make it, which I am owing you. I also enclose a copy of my account with you, which will, I think, sufficiently explain itself. — I enclose a little slip from Mr Kim, which explains one item. — I have charged you with the 10 photographs of John Brown, because I sent them; but I do not suppose you have sold them, and perhaps never will. You will please let me know what are unsold, and I will give you credit accordingly in my next account. Nor need you return any unsold copies to me. Make any use of them you please, whereby you think good may be done. — I have sent, as you requested, a copy of the Life of John Brown to Mr. Marcus Springs, and have charged you, for the same, the selling price of the volume here — is that right? I did it, more to make even change, and to account to Society for every copy, than anything else! — You will see that I have included in the amounts due you for the John Brown Life the charges paid by you in Dublin, Liverpool, &c. If you see anything amiss in the account, let me know it without fail. I trust the Bill of Exch. will reach you safely; if not, I have a second bill, which I will forward in its place.

In my last — a few weeks since — I mentioned, I believe, that C. L. Remond of Salem, & Watts Cook of Paterson N.J., desired their "Advocate" stopped. Now, Aaron M. Powell, Ghent, N.Y. makes the same request, — while feeling, he says, a sincere regret at parting company with the faithful little monthly.

One who has been a subscriber to the "Advocate" from the first, and its friend, will read it no more —

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you will know that I mean our dear and honored Francis Jackson, whom we could keep no longer among us, but who, to our unspeakable regret, (save as the highest & best faith teaches us that it is right & best as it is,) left this life about two weeks since. In last week's Liberator you will find, and perhaps will have time to peruse, what Mr. Garrison and Mr. Phillips said at his funeral. We shall miss him, in every way, and on all occasions; and are very glad and thankful that he was spared to the good cause so long.

Your Note of Sund. Octr. 27., with Postscript of Nov. 2^d., & enclosing one for Mr. Spring, reached me the 16th inst. - (2 days after F. J.'s death, 2 days before his funeral.) It deserves a full & thorough reply, and I have no time for it by this mail, but will not neglect it. In one sense, I despair of replying to it satisfactorily, - not that I think you right in all respects, or in most respects, (though there is much truth & soundness of judgment in what you say -) but because, at your distance, and judging so much as you do (I think) from the weekly newspaper reports of American Affairs, I deem it quite impossible that you should seize hold of the more fine & subtle proofs, - obvious to us who are daily here & watching every movement of the country, & feeling every throb of the nation's pulse, - which go to show the Nation's progress towards a high and just antislavery position. [In recent letters, ~~to yourself and to many others,~~ I have expressed

at some length my settled convictions upon the aspects of our public affairs. I ought not to wonder, if my words do seem to you as "idle tales". But I can only aver that never, since I became an Abolitionist, have I seen such hopeful times as these for the Anti Slavery Cause — never, when the fields were so white to the harvest, — never a time when the minds & hearts of the people were so receptive of light touching Slavery, its character, nature, & fruits. The War has not turned us all crazy; on the contrary, I think, the first effects of our new situation having passed away, we have got to look upon the whole matter with as much soberness and coolness as is the case with nations more accustomed to the business of War. Nor are we, Abolitionists, in any way blinded by extravagant expectations of what the Government is going to do, or of what the War is going to accomplish. And yet we are solemnly sure that the Right arm of Slavery is broken, — that it never can regain its old position of influence. It has made for itself millions of enemies of men who before were disposed to show it leniency and forbearance. It has demonstrated to these, & to all, its accursed nature, its unrelenting, all-devouring, spirit, its stealthy, treacherous, satanic spirit; and the purpose to crush it daily gains strength throughout the North, and has taken deep hold of the Government. — These things being so — the marked and admitted

tendency being strongly that way, why should we
not feel hopeful, encouraged, and full of faith
that the seed sown with labour & tears, amidst
apparent mischief and hostility, is now about to spring
& yield its fruit; and why should we not feel
little (or a good deal, as the case may be,) hurt when we
see how cold & indifferent all England is, towards
and how much direct aid and comfort those vi
of all man-stealing communities are receiving
from her. - How rejoiced have we lately been at
the words of Mr. Forster of Bradford, and al
what we hear of the Duke of Argyle's having sai
these things prove that there are sound minds
among England's statesmen willing to take a
fair and enlarged view of our National Strug
and of its Issues; and we are comforted there
for it is harder to lose faith in our fellow-men
than to lose any direct aid they can give,
which is what, as a Nation, we know we cann
ask, and certainly have never thought of aski
The above-named persons, as well as Mr. Hughes, the
editorials of the Daily News, & some other papers, give evide
of a good insight into the real state of things here, a
of a friendly or at least fair spirit towards the U. S
Government and the people of the Northern States. We h
and believe their number will be increased - quite a
much for the honour and honesty of the thing, as
any effect here. And as for the American Abolitioni
I think not one of them doubts that, when the real feeli
of the British Nation is ascertained & has occasion an
opportunity to express itself, it will not be on the side

of the vilest community which ever based their government and their existence upon the Right of Property in Man. – Meantime such articles as that in the London Quarterly Review (~~referred to in my last~~), the insulting & gibing article in Blackwood's Magazine (with some such enquiry as "what do they say of us in England" for its subject,) the editorials of the London Times, the open manner in which steamers and ships load in the principal English ports with arms, ammunition, clothing, tents, well known to be designed for making & carrying on a war with a Government with which England is ~~at~~ connected by Treaty-obligations, must stand as the interpretation of British sentiment towards us and our War with the Slaveholding States.

Of late the aspect of affairs has been decidedly favourable to the Northern arms. The action at Port Royal S.C. ~~was~~ (on the 7th November) was really a brilliant affair of arms on the part of our Navy, resulting in the capture of two forts, of the little town of Beaufort (headquarters of South Carolina Slaveholding aristocracy,) & the occupancy of the finest harbour on the Southern Atlantic Coast. Then the two Rebel Commissioners, who were going as Ministers from the Seceded States to England & France, two of the haughtiest and extremest advocates of Slavery with whom we have ever been cursed, – Mason of Virginia (author of the Fugitive Slave Bill) and Slidell of Louisiana – have been arrested on the great ocean highway, and brought prisoners to Fort Warren in Boston harbour. This was well planned and well accomplished by Captain Wilkes commanding the U.S. frigate San Jacinto, who, on his return from the Coast of Africa, learned at a port in Cuba where he touched that these two mischief makers and arch-rebels had taken pas[illegible] British Mail Steamer ready to sail from Ha[illegible] out the

traitors, ringleaders in the frauds and crimes which ha
resulted in this last desperate move of the Slaveholders t
uphold their power and control in this country; but which
by the good providence of God, has resulted, thus far, quite
differently from their designs & expectations. Few things could
been effected, more helpful to the side of freedom, more da
to the Slaveholders' plots, than the seizure of these men, - w
by all the laws of Nations, deserve the gallows as a fit retri
for their many crimes, though it may be that this extreme pen
will be forborne; this will be likely to depend very much on t
future course of the Seceding States. Some have thought
the British Government would be very indignant at this tak
of Mason & Slidell from one of their Mail packets; but the
prevailing belief here is otherwise. Indeed the law authorities, b
English & American, are so decided as to the right of a Nation, in time
war, to take the envoys or diplomatic agents of the enemy from t
vessels even of neutral powers, that it seems hardly possible a
question can be raised between the two Governments. The Captain
the Trent violated international law, we believe, in receiving the
emissaries on board his vessel, which might justly have been seize
penalty for the act. Still, I doubt not there will be a great
outcry, at first, in England about it. It will be curious to see,
I hope you will watch, the quarters in which this outcry first appe
and in which it is most loudly made; - for I think it will be
first those very places, that the active sympathy with the Slaveh
States exists. It will be a test, too, as to the extent & prevalence
that sympathy in England. - I shall hope to hear from you ag
very soon. -

We are having a week of brilliant lectures in Boston
On Monday evening, Charles Sumner repeated his Address on the Rebel
its Causes & Mainspring - a free lecture - to an immense audience. He
spoke from 7½ o'clk. to nearly 10, the audience sustaining & cheering his Eman
views to the very close. Last evg. Henry Ward Beecher lectured on the War to an equa
large audience - his talk was a little too much in a fighting spirit for the mos
his audience, but his Emancipation doctrine rec. the heartiest applause. To
by invitation of the Mercantile Library Assn, Wendell Phillips will lecture to
some 4000 people on the War. Great interest is manifested to hear him, and he will
speak in Music Hall, where only 6 mos. ago a mob sought to kill him.

But my time is up. And with hopes, regards, remains, Ever yours,
Sam'l. May Jr.

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